NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Finance

Consumer Price Index

1998

104-02042/

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

February 27, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
JANUARY 1998 Release

	Nova Scotia			Canada		
CPI & It's Components	**JAN. '98 Index**	**% Change from DEC.'97**	**% Change from JAN.'97**	**JAN. '98 Index**	**% Change from DEC.'97**	**% Change from JAN.'97**
All Items	108.7	0.6	1.5	108.2	0.6	1.1
Food	111.9	2.3	2.7	109.7	1.7	2.3
Shelter	105.9	-0.1	0.4	103.4	0.1	-0.1
Household Operations & Furnishings	106.9	1.4	0.4	108.5	1.5	2.0
Clothing & Footwear	107.4	1.0	5.2	102.9	1.2	2.4
Transportation	119.8	-0.1	1.4	121.3	0.0	-0.2
Health & Personal Care	105.2	0.2	1.4	107.0	0.3	2.1
Recreation, Education & Reading	113.9	-0.2	1.4	14.0	-0.2	1.8
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	87.0	0.1	-0.1	90.5	0.4	2.5

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE DECEMBER 1997)

January is the first month the Consumer Price Index has been presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

- The Halifax CPI index of 107.9 (1992=100) represented a +0.6% increase since last month and was +1.4% over the same month a year ago. For cities recording CPI, the increase in the index December 1997 ranged from to +0.2% in Edmonton and Charlottetown/Summerside to +1.2% in Quebec and Montreal.

Nova Scotia

- Month-to-month movement in all-items CPI was 0.6%, a 12-month change of 1.5% was recorded.
- From a monthly viewpoint, consumers in all provinces except Quebec experienced an average price increase of 0.3% to 0.6%. In Quebec, with the effects of the sales tax increase and the jump in fresh vegetable and fruit prices, the increase was 1.2%.
- Nova Scotia increases in January included:
  - Food (i.e., fresh produce, soft drinks, bread, dairy products, processed meats and restaurant meals).
  - Telephone services
  - Prices for men's & women's clothing
  - Automotive vehicles
  - Cablevision services
  - Personal care supplies
- Consumers benefited from lower prices for gasoline, fuel oil, recreational equipment and travel tours.
- Homeowners also benefited from lower mortgage interest costs.

Canada

- Consumer prices were on average 1.1% higher in January 1998 than they were in January 1997. Between December and January, the CPI index rose by 0.6% (this was the largest monthly increase since the same movement was recorded in November 1994).
- The following were key factors in advances in the CPI index:
  - A rise in the Quebec sales tax from 6.5% to 7.5% accounted for 1/6 of the increase in the CPI index since last month.
  - A jump in the price of fresh vegetables and fruit.
  - Higher telephone rates
  - Increased consumer prices for clothing and new vehicles.
- Lower prices were experienced for gasoline, travel tours, footwear and from falling mortgage interest charges

NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

MARCH 24, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
FEBRUARY 1998 Release

CPI & It's Components	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	FEB. '98 Index	% Change from JAN.'98	% Change from FEB.'97	FEB. '98 Index	% Change from JAN.'98	% Change from FEB.'97
All Items	108.5	-0.2	1.1	108.3	0.1	1.0
Food	110.8	-1.0	1.5	108.9	-0.7	1.3
Shelter	105.3	-0.6	0.2	103.2	-0.2	-0.3
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.0	0.1	0.2	108.7	0.2	2.2
Clothing & Footwear	108.5	1.0	4.3	103.9	1.0	2.3
Transportation	119.2	-0.5	1.5	120.7	-0.5	-0.6
Health & Personal Care	105.0	-0.2	0.9	107.1	0.1	1.8
Recreation, Education & Reading	114.7	0.7	1.1	116.0	1.8	2.8
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	89.1	2.4	2.1	92.0	1.7	3.7

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE JANUARY 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

The Halifax CPI all-items index of 107.8 was down 0.1% a month ago and +1.1% over February 1997.

Nova Scotia

Month-to-month movement in all-items CPI was -0.2%, a 12-month change of +1.1% was recorded. This compared to a range among the provinces between January and February 1998 of -0.7% in Alberta to +0.3% in PEI, Ontario and Saskatchewan; and a 12-month change from -0.1% in B.C. to +1.5% in Quebec.

Lower prices were recorded for:
-food (especially fresh vegetables, poultry, fish and bakery products)
-Fuel oil
-Homeowners' maintenance and repairs
-Gasoline
-Furniture
-Air travel and traveller accommodation.
-Men's Clothing

Offsetting these declines were higher prices for cigarettes (tax increases), travel tours, cablevision service, women's clothing and children's wear, household textiles, cut flowers and paper supplies.

Canada

Consumer prices were on average 0.1% higher in February 1998 than they were in January 1998. Between February 1997 and February 1998, the CPI index rose by 1.0%.

Significant price increases were led by:
-Travel tours (Feb. popular travel month & some operators used surcharge to help offset effects of weak Canadian dollar)
-Cablevision (several cable companies ended free trial period of new specialty channels & some rate increases occurred)
-Cigarettes (tax increases imposed by provincial/federal government affected Ont., Que., N.B., N.S. and PEI)
-Clothing and footwear (seasonal price increases)

Large price decreases were recorded for:
-Fresh vegetables (return to more normal growing conditions in southwestern U.S.)
-Gasoline (prices dropped for the fifth consecutive month)
-Natural gas (partly due to a one-time rebate and unusually warm winter in Canada).

NOVA SCOTIA **Department of Finance**
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

APRIL 21, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
MARCH 1998 Release

CPI & It's Components	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	MAR. '98 Index	% Change from FEB.'98	% Change from MAR.'97	MAR. '98 Index	% Change from FEB.'98	% Change from MAR.'97
All Items	108.6	0.1	0.9	108.4	0.1	0.9
Food	110.8	0.0	1.6	109.2	0.3	1.6
Shelter	105.0	-0.3	0.4	103.4	0.2	-0.1
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.0	0.0	-0.8	108.5	-0.2	1.6
Clothing & Footwear	110.2	1.6	2.0	104.7	0.8	1.7
Transportation	118.9	-0.3	1.1	120.3	-0.3	-1.0
Health & Personal Care	106.3	1.2	1.6	107.2	0.1	1.8
Recreation, Education & Reading	115.8	1.0	1.3	116.4	0.3	2.6
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	89.5	0.4	2.5	92.1	0.1	3.7

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE FEBRUARY 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

- Halifax posted an all-items CPI index of 108.0 in March (1992=100), 0.2% over February 1998 and 0.9% over March 1997.

Nova Scotia

- From a monthly viewpoint, Nfld. posted the largest price declines among provinces (-0.4%). Alberta registered the largest increases in March (0.5%). Overall consumer prices in Nova Scotia increased 0.1% over last month; the 12-month change was 0.9%.
- Nova Scotians paid more for:
  -women's clothing
  -footwear
  -cablevision services
  -air travel and travel tours
  -homeowners' maintenance and repairs
- Lower prices were noted for:
  -fuel oil and gasoline
  -pet food
  -paper supplies
- The food bill was unchanged overall (higher prices for fresh vegetables, frozen foods, chicken and pork were offset by lower prices for beef, fresh fruit, bakery and cereal products).

Canada

- There was a small growth of 0.1% in the CPI between February and March; the 12-month change was 0.9%.
- Higher prices were noted for:
  -vegetables (resulting from El Nino, temporary shortages and delayed plantings due to rain earlier in the year)
  -cablevision (end of free trial period for new specialty channels and introduction of higher rates for some packages)
  -air travel (airlines usually increase fares because of strong demand with school holidays)
  -natural gas (return to regular prices in Alberta after a one-time rebate in February)
  -travel tours (lower exchange rate and increased demand)
- Offsetting price declines:
  -gasoline (prices declined for sixth consecutive month--crude oil on world markets fell to lowest level in over 9 years)
  -computer equipment (index introduced in January 1995 has not yet shown a monthly increase)
  -meat (export demand adversely affected by economic slowdown in Asia)

NOVA SCOTIA **Department of Finance**
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

May 14, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
APRIL 1998 Release

	Nova Scotia			Canada		
CPI & It's Components	APR. '98 Index	% Change from MAR.'98	% Change from APR.'97	APR. '98 Index	% Change from MAR.'98	% Change from APR.'97
All Items	108.4	-0.2	0.6	108.3	-0.1	0.8
Food	110.5	-0.3	2.3	108.9	-0.3	1.7
Shelter	105.0	0.0	-0.7	103.5	0.1	0.0
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.1	0.1	1.9	108.4	-0.1	1.5
Clothing & Footwear	109.6	-0.5	-2.8	103.8	-0.9	-0.1
Transportation	117.4	-1.3	-1.2	120.2	-0.1	-0.7
Health & Personal Care	106.7	0.4	1.3	107.7	0.5	1.5
Recreation, Education & Reading	116.0	0.2	1.5	116.4	0.0	2.5
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	89.6	0.1	4.2	92.2	0.1	3.8

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE MARCH 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

- Halifax Metro's April 1998 all-items index of 107.8 was down 0.2% from last month and registered an increase of 0.7% over the same month a year ago.

Nova Scotia

- The month-to-month movement in Nova Scotia's all-items index was -0.2%; the 12-month change stood at 0.6%.
- Since last month, Nova Scotia consumers paid less for:
  -automotive vehicles, gasoline and automobile insurance
  -women's clothing
  -fuel oil
  -air fares
- Increases were noted for:
  -homeowners' maintenance and repair of their dwellings
  -traveller accommodation
  -cablevision
- From March to April 1998, Alberta recorded the highest average price increases (0.5%) among the provinces. New Brunswick posted the largest price decrease (-0.4%).

Canada

- Between March and April 1998, consumers across Canada saw a small 0.1% decline in the basket of goods making up the CPI. Overall prices were up 0.8% compared with April 1997.
- Prices were lower for:
  -purchased and leased new vehicles (large Canadian manufacturers offered rebates on a selection of vehicles in an attempt to gain market share)
  -women's clothing (sale prices were prevalent suggesting weaker demand)
  -food from stores (turkey and ham promotions during Easter holiday period, fresh vegetables)
  -home fuel
  -telephone services (price reductions in the competitive long-distance telephone market)
  -air travel
- Higher prices affected:
  -gasoline
  -homeowners' maintenance and repair
  -traveller accommodation
  -dental care (attributed to introduction of the suggested fee guides published by provincial dental associations)

NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
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June 19, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
MAY 1998 Release

CPI & It's Components	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	MAY '98 Index	% Change from APR.'98	% Change from MAY'97	MAY '98 Index	% Change from APR.'98	% Change from MAY'97
All Items	108.5	0.1	0.7	108.7	0.4	1.1
Food	110.5	0.0	2.6	109.4	0.5	1.8
Shelter	105.0	0.0	-1.0	103.5	0.0	0.3
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.1	0.0	1.5	108.4	0.0	1.7
Clothing & Footwear	110.1	0.5	-0.9	103.1	-0.7	0.0
Transportation	117.2	-0.2	-1.1	120.7	0.4	-0.3
Health & Personal Care	107.1	0.4	1.5	108.2	0.5	2.1
Recreation, Education & Reading	116.8	0.7	2.3	118.3	1.6	3.1
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	89.7	0.1	3.9	92.6	0.4	3.7

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE APRIL 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

- Halifax metro's May 1998 all-items CPI (1992=100) was 107.9, an increase of 0.1% over last month and +0.7% higher than May 1997.

Nova Scotia

- The month-to-month movement in Nova Scotia's all-items index was 0.1% ; the 12-month change stood at 0.7%.
- Since last month, lower prices were observed for:
  -use of recreational facilities
  -some food items (incl. fish, cheese, fresh fruit and confectionery)
  -paper supplies
  -household textiles
  -air transportation
  -vehicle insurance
  -homeowners' maintenance and repairs and kitchen utensils
- Increases were noted for:
  -new houses
  -homeowners insurance
  -selected men's wear, women's footwear
  -prescribed medicine
  -traveller accommodation services
- From April to May 1998 among the provinces, the Manitoba CPI posted the highest average price movement (+0.6%). The price index for PEI recorded the largest average price decrease (-0.7%).

Canada

- Canadians paid 1.1% more in May for the goods and services in the CPI basket than they did in May 1997. CPI increased 0.4% between April and May of 1998.
- Prices were lower for:
  -women's clothing
  -bakery products (specials and promotions)
  -air transportation (lower fares on many international flights)
- Price increases were noted for:
  -traveller accommodation rates (high occupancy rates related to a number of large conventions in major cities)
  -gasoline (although this represented the second increase in as many months, consumers paid less for gasoline than a year earlier)
  -fresh fruit (unusual weather in parts of the US resulted in importing of higher priced fresh fruit from other countries)
  -natural gas (rate increases in Ontario)

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

July 16, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
JUNE 1998 Release

CPI & It's Components	Nova Scotia JUNE '98 Index	Nova Scotia % Change from MAY'98	Nova Scotia % Change from JUNE'97	Canada JUNE '98 Index	Canada % Change from MAY'98	Canada % Change from JUNE'97
All Items	108.4	-0.1	0.7	108.8	0.1	1.0
Food	111.0	0.5	4.2	110.2	0.7	2.1
Shelter	104.9	-0.1	-0.9	103.5	0.0	0.2
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.1	0.0	2.3	108.0	-0.4	1.5
Clothing & Footwear	107.5	-2.4	-2.7	103.2	0.1	0.7
Transportation	117.6	0.3	-1.5	120.7	0.0	-0.7
Health & Personal Care	107.4	0.3	2.6	108.2	0.0	1.8
Recreation, Education & Reading	116.6	-0.2	1.4	118.5	0.2	2.2
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	89.7	0.0	4.1	92.6	0.0	3.5

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE MAY 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

Halifax metro's June 1998 all-items CPI (1992=100) was 107.9 , unchanged from last month and 0.9% higher than June 1997.

Nova Scotia

The month-to-month movement in Nova Scotia's all-items index was -0.1% ; the 12-month change stood at 0.7%.

Since last month, lower prices were observed for:
-clothing and footwear
-home maintenance and repairs, household textiles and home appliances
-selected recreational equipment
-paper supplies
-pet food
-beer

Increases were noted for:
-food (notably for pork, potatoes, apples and soft drinks)
-gasoline
-hotel/motel accommodation
-new homes
-health care products
-cigarettes

Between May and June, Alberta registered the highest price increases (0.6%) among provinces, while at the other end of the spectrum, slight price declines occurred in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario.

Canada

Canadians paid 1.0% more in June for the goods and services in the CPI basket than they did in June 1997. June marks the ninth consecutive month in which the year-over-year change was below the annual average of 1.6% recorded in 1997. CPI increased a modest 0.1% between May and June of 1998.

Price declines occurred in purchases of:
-computers (reduced cost of components arising from weak Asian currencies & demand for PC's has slowed)
-telephone service (highly-competitive long-distance service market)
-men's and children's clothing

Price increases were noted for:
-fresh produce (fruit, potatoes). The weak Canadian dollar versus the U.S. dollar, coupled with the effects of unusual weather in the southern U.S. earlier this year, has put upward pressure on fresh produce prices.
-meat (particularly pork, ham and bacon)
-women's clothing (end of sale prices)
-traveller accommodation (seasonal)

NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

August 19, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
JULY 1998 Release

CPI & It's Components	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	JULY '98 Index	% Change from JUNE'98	% Change from JULY'97	JULY '98 Index	% Change from JUNE'98	% Change from JULY'97
All Items	108.5	0.1	0.7	108.8	0.0	1.0
Food	110.0	-0.9	1.7	109.9	-0.3	1.4
Shelter	105.1	0.2	-0.8	103.6	0.1	0.3
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.8	0.7	3.3	108.0	0.0	1.5
Clothing & Footwear	108.2	0.7	-0.9	102.6	-0.6	1.1
Transportation	117.5	-0.1	-1.2	120.4	-0.2	-0.4
Health & Personal Care	107.6	0.2	2.7	108.4	0.2	2.2
Recreation, Education & Reading	117.3	0.6	1.3	119.4	0.8	2.3
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	89.8	0.1	4.1	92.8	0.2	4.2

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE JUNE 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

- Halifax metro's July 1998 all-items CPI (1992=100) was 108.0 , a 0.1% increase over last month and 0.8% higher than July 1997.

Nova Scotia

- The month-to-month movement in Nova Scotia's all-items index was 0.1%; the 12-month change stood at 0.7%.
- Price increases were noted for:
  -household textiles
  -chemical products
  -paper supplies
  -pet food
  -air transportation
  -hotel/motel accommodation
  -homeowners' repairs
  -women's clothing
- A large part of the offsetting effect resulted from lower:
  -food prices (particularly beef, pork, chicken, lettuce, soft drinks and restaurant meals)
  -new vehicles
  -gasoline
  -children's clothing & footwear
- Between June and July, changes in the provincial CPIs ranged from a decline of 0.3% in New Brunswick to an advance of 0.4% in Newfoundland.

Canada

- The CPI remained unchanged between June and July 1998; compared with July last year, Canadians experienced an average price increase of 1.0% for the goods and services included in the CPI basket.
- Declining prices occurred in the purchase of:
  -fresh produce (particularly fresh fruit, abundance of vegetables due to early spring)
  -new cars (manufacturers's rebates, dealer discounts and manufacturers efforts to make purchase of new vehicles more attractive than leasing)
  -gasoline (decline in the Raw Material Price Index for crude oil in June)
  -electricity (one-time credit in B.C. electricity in July)
- Price increases included:
  -seasonal increase in traveller accommodation rates (stronger demand this summer due to the weakness of the Canadian dollar)
  -higher air fares (high demand in July is normal)
  -rising charges for home owners' maintenance and repairs

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

September 18, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
AUGUST 1998 Release

CPI & It's Components	Nova Scotia AUG. '98 Index	Nova Scotia % Change from JULY'98	Nova Scotia % Change from AUG.'97	Canada AUG. '98 Index	Canada % Change from JULY'98	Canada % Change from AUG.'97
All Items	108.6	0.1	0.4	108.8	0.0	0.8
Food	110.6	0.5	1.8	109.2	-0.6	1.4
Shelter	104.7	-0.4	-1.0	103.7	0.1	0.6
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.7	-0.1	2.9	107.9	-0.1	1.4
Clothing & Footwear	109.9	1.6	-2.4	104.7	2.0	1.1
Transportation	117.7	0.2	-1.8	120.2	-0.2	-1.5
Health & Personal Care	107.5	-0.1	2.6	108.4	0.0	2.3
Recreation, Education & Reading	117.1	-0.2	1.1	119.3	-0.1	2.2
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	89.8	0.0	4.3	93.0	0.2	3.9

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE JULY 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

- Halifax metro's August 1998 all-items CPI index (1992=100) was 108.1 , a 0.1% increase over last month and 0.7% higher than August 1997.

Nova Scotia

- The month-to-month movement in Nova Scotia's all-items index was 0.1%; the 12-month change stood at 0.4%.
- The largest contributors to the latest change were higher prices for:
  -food (beef, port, chicken, processed meat, fresh fruit, soups and restaurant meals)
  -clothing (men's and children's wear and athletic footwear)
- A large part of the offsetting effect resulted from lower:
  -homeowners' charges for maintenance and repairs
  -insurance services
  -new houses
  -pet food
  -personal care supplies
- Between July and August 1998, New Brunswick faced the highest price increases (+0.4%) among provinces, while at the other end of the spectrum, residents of Saskatchewan enjoyed the largest price decreases (-0.4%).

Canada

- August 1998 marked the second consecutive month in which the CPI showed no change.. Between August 1997 and August 1998, consumers experienced an average price increase of 0.8% for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket.
- Declining prices occurred in the purchase of:
  -food (price of fresh vegetables due to arrival of locally produced crops which counteracted higher prices for beef and chicken)
  -gasoline (prices of both gasoline and crude oil have exhibited downward trends since October 1997)
  -computers and computer equipment (personal computers now costs on average 20% less than it did a year ago. Manufacturers have been reducing prices as they pass on savings derived from falling prices for Asian components.)
- Significant price increases included:
  -clothing and footwear (usual price increase happens in August; however this month's a bit stronger due to increases in women's and children's clothing)
  -electricity (primarily due to return to regular rates in B.C. after one-time credit granted last month)
  -air transportation (rising demand for air transportation resulted in higher prices for the least expensive seats)

NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

October 21, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
SEPTEMBER 1998 Release

CPI & It's Components	Nova Scotia			Canada		
	SEPT. '98 Index	% Change from AUG.'98	% Change from SEPT.'97	SEPT. '98 Index	% Change from AUG.'98	% Change from SEPT.'97
All Items	107.4	-1.1	-0.7	108.6	-0.2	0.7
Food	109.6	-0.9	1.6	108.3	-0.8	1.3
Shelter	101.1	-3.4	-4.4	103.6	-0.1	0.5
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.2	-0.5	2.2	108.5	0.6	1.5
Clothing & Footwear	110.8	0.8	-0.4	104.4	-0.3	1.0
Transportation	117.6	-0.1	-2.5	119.9	-0.2	-1.9
Health & Personal Care	107.2	-0.3	2.6	108.5	0.1	2.5
Recreation, Education & Reading	116.9	-0.2	0.3	119.0	-0.3	1.5
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	89.8	0.0	4.1	93.2	0.2	4.0

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE AUGUST 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

- Halifax Metro's September 1998 all-items CPI index (1992=100) was 107.1, -0.9% from last month and -0.3% from September 1997.

Nova Scotia

- The month-to-month movement in Nova Scotia's all-items index was -1.1%; the 12-month change stood at -0.7%.
- Between August and September 1998, a large price decline for electricity accounted for most of the overall drop in the CPI.
- Prices also fell for:
  -food (chicken, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and soft drinks)
  -fuel oil
  -air transportation
  -household textiles and chemical products
  -recreational equipment and services, books, personal care supplies
  -some classes of clothing and footwear
- Producing a moderately offsetting effect were higher prices for:
  -university tuition fees
  -home maintenance and repairs
  -household appliances
- Over the last 12 months, the all-items index ranged from an increase of 1.1% in Alberta to a decrease of 1.0% in Newfoundland.

Canada

- Between September 1997 and September 1998, Canadian consumers experienced an average price increase of 0.7 % for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket. Between August and September 1998, the CPI fell 0.2%.
- The August-September decline, the largest monthly decline this year resulted from lower prices for:
  -food (fresh fruit and vegetables, a usual decline this time of year)
  -electricity (mainly due to one-time rebates to customers in Nfld., N.S. and Alta.)
  -traveller accommodation (end of peak tourist season)
  -computers (on average, computers cost 24% less than a year ago for a combination of reasons--personal computer demand is down, companies have reduced prices to preserve market share and reduce inventories, chips and components imported from Asia reflect weakness of Asian currencies)
  -air transportation
- Significant price increases included:
  -university tuition fees (annual increases in tuition fees have exceeded increases in the annual average of the all-items CPI since 1983--share of university revenues from tuition fees has grown in recent years while the share from government grants has fallen)
  -furniture prices also had a moderating effect (return to regular prices after period of promotional sales)

NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

November 19, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
OCTOBER 1998 Release

CPI & It's Components	Nova Scotia OCT. '98 Index	Nova Scotia % Change from SEPT.=98	Nova Scotia % Change from OCT.=97	Canada OCT. '98 Index	Canada % Change from SEPT.=98	Canada % Change from OCT.=97
All Items	108.7	1.2	0.4	109.0	0.4	1.0
Food	110.0	0.4	2.1	108.5	0.2	1.4
Shelter	104.6	3.5	-1.4	104.2	0.6	1.0
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.2	0.0	1.5	108.0	-0.5	0.9
Clothing & Footwear	113.7	2.6	0.6	106.1	1.6	1.3
Transportation	117.6	0.0	-1.6	120.5	0.5	-0.7
Health & Personal Care	107.7	0.5	3.3	108.7	0.2	2.4
Recreation, Education & Reading	117.2	0.3	0.6	119.1	0.1	1.8
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	90.2	0.4	4.0	93.3	0.1	3.8

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE SEPTEMBER 1998)

January, 1998 was the first month the Consumer Price Index was presented on the time base 1992=100

Cities

- Halifax Metro= October 1998 all-items CPI index (1992=100) was 108.2, up 1.0% from last month and +0.6% from October 1997.

Nova Scotia

- The month-to-month movement in Nova Scotia= all-items index was +1.2%; the 12-month change stood at + 0.4%.
- Between September and October 1998, much of the increase in N.S.= CPI came from:
  -higher electricity bills (no longer influenced by the one-time credit granted in September)
  -higher clothing and footwear prices
  -a rise in food prices (especially bread, chicken and fresh produce)
  -price of toys and games
  -property taxes
- Offsetting influences were observed in:
  -lower charges for homeowners=maintenance and repairs
  -traveller accommodation
  -fuel oil
- Between September and October, the all-items index increased in all provinces. Nova Scotians faced the largest advances (1.2%), while residents of Alberta and British Columbia experienced the smallest price movements (0.1%).

Canada

- Between October 1997 and October 1998, Canadian consumers experienced an average price increase of 1.0% for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket. Between September and October 1998, the CPI rose 0.4%.
- The September to October increase was mainly due to price increases for:
  -gasoline (increased 2.2% over last month, but remained 9.0% lower than last October; the increase followed a climb of 11.6% in the price of crude oil between August and September 1998)
  -electricity (electricity bills no longer influenced by one-time rebate given in Nfld., N.S. and Alberta)
  -fresh vegetables (seasonal increases noted especially for tomatoes and lettuce; the end of the growing season also resulted in the return to importing of part of the fruit supply)
- Offsetting decreases included:
  -furniture (discounts more prevalent in October)
  -meat (all categories as result of competitive market--over supplied markets)

NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

December 18, 1998

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
NOVEMBER 1998 Release

	Nova Scotia			Canada		
CPI & It's Components	**NOV. '98 Index**	**% Change from OCT.'98**	**% Change from NOV.'97**	**NOV. '98 Index**	**% Change from OCT.'98**	**% Change from NOV.'97**
All Items	108.7	0.0	0.6	109.0	0.0	1.2
Food	110.2	0.2	1.1	109.7	1.1	1.6
Shelter	104.6	0.0	-1.2	104.2	0.0	1.0
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.1	-0.1	2.3	107.9	-0.1	1.3
Clothing & Footwear	111.7	-1.8	0.9	104.5	-1.5	1.4
Transportation	119.2	1.4	-0.7	121.1	0.5	-0.4
Health & Personal Care	107.5	-0.2	2.2	108.9	0.2	2.3
Recreation, Education & Reading	116.5	-0.6	1.6	117.2	-1.6	2.0
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	90.0	-0.2	3.7	93.5	0.2	3.7

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE OCTOBER 1998)

Cities

- Halifax Metro's November 1998 all-items CPI index 108.2 (1992=100) was unchanged from last month and stood at +0.7% over November 1997.

Nova Scotia

- As a result of a number of counterbalancing price movements, Nova Scotia's all-items index was unchanged from last month; the 12-month change stood at +0.6%.
- Between October and November 1998, upward pressure in N.S.'s CPI came from higher prices for:
  -new automotive vehicles
  -food (particularly fresh produce and beef)
  -homeowners' maintenance and repair
  -pet food
- The major offsetting influences were:
  -declining clothing and footwear prices
  -rate reductions for traveller accommodation
  -fuel oil
  -air transportation
- Among the provinces between October and November 1998, Saskatchewan experienced, on average, the highest price increases (+0.4%), while the largest average price decreases were posted in British Columbia (-0.2%).

Canada

- Between November 1997 and November 1998, Canadian consumers paid 1.2% more for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket. The CPI recorded no change between October and November 1998.
- Upward movements within the all-items index between October and November were mainly due to price increases for:
  -food purchased from stores (particularly due to seasonally higher prices for fresh vegetables)
  -new automotive vehicles (usual price change noted this time of year between the old and the new automotive vehicle models)
- Offsetting price declines included:
  -traveller accommodations (introduction of winter rates--a trend of the past four years)
  -clothing and footwear (decreases in most categories of clothing/footwear)
  -gasoline (reductions at the pumps reflected drop in the world price of crude oil in October).

NOVA SCOTIA

Department of Finance
Fiscal & Economic Policy
Statistics

January 20, 1999

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1992 = 100
DECEMBER 1998 Release

	Nova Scotia			Canada		
CPI & It's Component	DEC. '98 Index	% Change from NOV.'98	% Change from DEC.'97	DEC. '98 Index	% Change from NOV.'98	% Change from DEC.'97
All Items	108.4	-0.3	0.4	108.7	-0.3	1.0
Food	109.8	-0.4	0.4	109.7	0.0	1.7
Shelter	104.6	0.0	-1.3	104.4	0.2	1.1
Household Operations & Furnishings	107.5	0.4	2.0	107.8	-0.1	0.8
Clothing & Footwear	108.0	-3.3	1.6	102.6	-1.8	0.9
Transportation	118.5	-0.6	-1.2	120.3	-0.7	-0.8
Health & Personal Care	107.6	0.1	2.5	108.8	-0.1	2.0
Recreation, Education & Reading	116.4	-0.1	2.0	116.5	-0.6	2.0
Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco Products	90.1	0.1	3.7	93.4	-0.1	3.7

HIGHLIGHTS (CHANGES SINCE NOVEMBER 1998)

Cities

- Halifax Metro's December 1998 all-items CPI index of 107.9 (1992=100) was -0.3% from last month and stood at +0.6% over December 1997.

Nova Scotia

- Nova Scotia's all-items index was -0.3% from last month; the 12-month change stood at +0.4%.
- The drop in Nova Scotia's CPI between November and December 1998 was led by lower prices for:
  -clothing
  -gasoline
  -food (notably for soft drinks, processed meats, bread, rolls, buns and lettuce)
  -fuel oil
  -furniture and household appliances
- The major offsetting influences were rising rates for:
  -homeowners' maintenance and repairs
  -airfares
- Although the CPI's of Manitoba and Alberta rose by only 0.2% in December compared with November, the remaining provinces enjoyed overall price declines ranging from -0.1% in Saskatchewan to -0.6% in Newfoundland.

Canada

- In December 1998, Canadian consumers paid 1.0% more for the goods and services contained in the CPI basket than they did a year ago. The CPI fell -0.3% between November and December 1998.
- The drop in the CPI from last month was mainly due to decreases in prices for:
  -gasoline (a 4.3% dropped was the strongest monthly decrease since July 1996--oversupply of crude oil combined with falling demand)
  -women's and men's clothing and footwear (seasonal pattern of widespread discounts by retailers prior to Christmas)
  -traveller accommodation (end of peak season and introduction of winter rates)
- Partly offsetting the decreases were advances in the prices of::
  -piped gas (return to regular billing after a one-time rebate in Alberta last month and rate increases in Ontario and Quebec)
  -air transportation (usual increase experienced in December)
  -fresh vegetables (mainly due to higher prices for potatoes, tomatoes and other fresh vegetables)